

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-16, 18-38, 53-57 and 59-66 are pending in this application after amendment. Applicants' acknowledge, with gratitude, the allowance of claims 28-30.

In the Official Action of January 11, 2006, claims 1-3, 12, 14-15, 23, 25-26, 31-32, 36, 38, 53-55, 64 and 66 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Howell (U.S. Patent No. 5,197,958). This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Howell reference fails to disclose the use of an unregistered graphic as presently claimed, since as pointed out in applicants' prior submissions, the graphics of Howell are thermally sensitive and therefore not permanent. In contrast, the unregistered graphics of the present invention are not thermally sensitive, i.e. the graphics are not intended to fade or appear as a result of wetness. This would be the characteristic of a wetness indicator, not the unregistered graphic. The use of both an unregistered graphic and a wetness indicator as described and claimed in the present invention is intended to avoid the complexities of the prior art which for the most part rely on interactive graphics for such applications.

The Examiner states that the features of an ink that is not thermally sensitive is not stated in the claims, and therefore should not be given consideration during examination. However, as correctly noted by the Examiner, the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, and there is nothing in the specification to indicate that the unregistered graphics are intended to function as a wetness indicator, and to thereby fade or appear due to wetness.

Moreover, the claims now provide that the unregistered graphics are on a web which can be positioned at the desired location on the garment. The use of a web to position an unregistered graphic on a disposable garment is not disclosed in Howell. Howell uses thermally sensitive graphics on various portions of the disclosed garment, and not just in the crotch regions as is the case in the present invention.

Claims 53-58 and 64-66 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cammarota et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,307,119). This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

Cammarota et al. does not disclose the positioning of an unregistered graphic in the waist region of a disposable garment using a web as now claimed in the present application. In fact, the reference fails to disclose any positioning of the disclosed graphics.

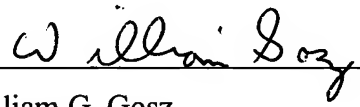
Claims 4-11, 13, 16-22, 24, 27, 33-35, 37, 45-49 and 56-63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Howell in view of Cammarota et al. This ground of rejection is also traversed.

Neither Howell nor Cammarota et al. disclose the use of a web material for use as a printing substrate for graphics, and for use in positioning the graphical elements at the waist region of a disposable garment. Moreover, there is no teaching in the references, or any combination of the references, which would suggest this type of arrangement.

In view of the aforementioned facts and reasons, the present application is now believed to overcome the remaining rejections in this application, and to be in proper condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the above-identified amendment does not raise any additional issues or require any further consideration on the part of the Examiner. Accordingly, entry of the foregoing amendment, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to discuss any matter pertaining to the status of this application.

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Respectfully submitted



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